

*A1 could*  
United States Serial No. 09/360,839, and is related to the subject matter of, and claims priority to, commonly assigned, copending United States Serial No. 09,364,307 entitled "SCRATCH RESISTANCE IMPROVEMENT BY FILLING METAL GAPS" and filed July 30, 1999. The content of the above-referenced related application is incorporated herein by reference.

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Please replace the heading on page 6, line 1 of the specification with the following:

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*A2*  
**DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

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Please replace the paragraph on page 7, line 24 through page 8, line 3 of the specification with the following:

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*A3 cont*  
**Figure 1C** is a cross-sectional detail of a sensor array cell as seen from a cross-section taken along section line A-A. Sensor circuit **102** within a sensor array cell includes one or more active areas, such as polysilicon electrodes **102** or source/drain regions **122** within a substrate **124**. A dielectric **126** overlies active areas **120**, **122**, with openings through which metal contacts **128** are formed to connect active regions **120**, **122** with metal regions **130** (e.g., landing pads or interconnects) within the first metallization level. An intermetal dielectric **132**

A3  
cancel

overlies metal regions 130 and dielectric 126, with openings therethrough in which are formed metal vias 134 connecting metal regions 130 to capacitive electrodes 136 overlying the interlevel dielectric 132.

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Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 5–9 of the specification with the following:

A4

Capacitive electrodes 136 are covered by a second intermetal dielectric 138, on which are formed electrostatic discharge (ESD) protection patterns 140. A passivation layer 142, which may actually comprise multiple layers, covers the ESD protection lines 140 and forms the surface 144 which is contacted by the epidermal layer of the finger during fingerprint acquisition.

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 10–13 without prejudice. Please amend the remaining claims as follows, substituting any amended claim(s) for the corresponding pending claim(s):